

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

15-16 (cancelled).

17 (currently amended). The cracker of claim ~~15~~ 32 further comprising a sweep operatively disposed to clear said V-block.

18 (original). The cracker of claim 17 wherein said ram and said sweep are synchronized in alternation.

19 (original). The cracker of claim 17 wherein said sweep further comprises a plurality of passages extending through said V-block and a pressurized gas supply connected to said passages.

20 (currently amended). The cracker of claim 19 wherein ~~one of said supports~~ said side support further comprises a pivotable flap overlying said passages.

21 (currently amended). The cracker of claim ~~15~~ 27 wherein ~~one of said supports~~ said first support is inclined at an angle of between 20 and 40 degrees to said nest axis.

22 (currently amended). The cracker of claim 21 wherein ~~the other of said supports~~ said second support is inclined at an angle of between 50 and 70 degrees to said nest axis.

23 (currently amended). The cracker of claim ~~15~~ 27 wherein ~~one of said supports~~ said first support is inclined at an angle of between 25 and 35 degrees to said nest axis, ~~the other of said supports~~ said second support is inclined at an angle of between 55 and 65 degrees to said nest axis, and said supports

together define an angle of between 85 and 95 degrees.

24 (currently amended). The cracker of claim ~~15~~ 27 wherein ~~one of said supports~~ said first support is inclined at an angle of about 30 degrees to said nest axis, ~~the other of said supports~~ said second support is inclined at an angle of about 60 degrees to said nest axis and said supports together define an angle of about 90 degrees.

25 (cancelled).

26 (currently amended). ~~The cracker of claim 25 further comprising~~ A derelict product cracker comprising:

a V-block defining a nest axis, said V-block having a pair of supports, said supports being inclined at different angles to said nest axis;
a ram facing said supports, said ram having a near position adjoining said V-block and a far position at a greater separation from said V-block than said near position, said ram being rapidly movable from said far position to said near position, said ram being aligned with said nest axis in said near position;

a bumper laterally adjoining said supports; and
a clamp jaw disposed opposite said bumper, said clamp jaw being movable toward and away from said bumper in synchrony with said ram.

27 (currently amended). A derelict product cracker comprising:
a ram movable rapidly from a far position to a near position, said ram defining a ram axis;

a nest closely adjoining said ram when said ram is in said near position, said nest having first and second supports defining first and second intersecting planes, respectively, said planes meeting at said ram axis, said planes each being inclined relative to said ram axis;

a bumper laterally adjoining said supports; and
a clamp jaw disposed opposite said bumper, said clamp jaw being movable toward and away from said bumper in synchrony with said ram; and
a sweep operatively disposed to clear said nest, said sweep and

said ram being synchronized.

28 (original). The cracker of claim 27 wherein said first plane is inclined relative to said nest axis, at about double the angle of said second plane.

29-30 (abandoned).

31 (currently amended). The nest of claim ~~30~~ 32 wherein said side support has a plurality of gas passages.

32 (currently amended). ~~The nest of claim 30 further comprising~~
A cracker nest comprising:
a V-block defining a nest axis, said V-block having a side support
inclined at an angle of 25 to 35 degrees to said nest axis and an end support
inclined at an angle of 55 to 65 degrees to nest axis, said supports together
defining an angle of 85 to 95 degrees, said side support extending farther outward
from said axis than said end support; and
an L-shaped bumper laterally adjoining said supports.

33 (original). The nest of claim 32 further comprising a clamp jaw disposed opposite said bumper, said clamp jaw being movable toward and away from said bumper.